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# Media Release

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## **HASAN IKHRATA NAMED SCAG'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**LOS ANGELES** – After completing an extensive national recruiting effort, the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) formally approved the hiring of Hasan Ikhata as the agency's new Executive Director, replacing Mark Pisano who left the organization on December 31. Hasan has worked for SCAG for more than thirteen years, most recently serving as the agency's Director of Planning and Policy.

"We are very pleased to have Hasan Ikhata lead SCAG during this critical period of planning for Southern California's future," said San Bernardino County Supervisor and SCAG President Gary Ovitt. "Hasan is uniquely qualified to help SCAG address the many policy challenges facing Southern California, and he is well-equipped to strengthen the manner in which SCAG works with federal, state and subregional partners to undertake our mission."

"I am very excited to be taking on this important post at such a pivotal time as Southern California faces some fundamental decisions on how it prepares for its future," said Ikhata. "More than ever, SCAG must continue serving a critical role of providing local policymakers with the vision and innovation we need to plan for our collective future."

During his tenure at SCAG, Hasan has overseen the development of comprehensive regional transportation plans (RTP's) for Southern California, including the most recent plan released last month. He also provided critical leadership during the development of Compass Blueprint, SCAG's unprecedented growth visioning process that provides local decision-makers with more effective tools to address a number of critical growth issues facing the region over the next 25 years. Since the inception of Compass Blueprint, dozens of local governments throughout the region have employed many of the land use and transportation strategies detailed in this growth visioning initiative to undertake demonstration projects in their respective areas.

Prior to joining SCAG, Hasan worked for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for four years, where he developed a comprehensive

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Transportation Control Measure and Demand Management program for the MTA and eighty-eight cities in the County. While at the MTA, he also developed performance measures for use in update to the MTA Long Term Capital Plan.

Hasan worked for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for two years as a senior staff member responsible for managing numerous transportation and air quality related projects. He headed the evaluation of various components of Regulation XV, the nation's first mandatory employer based trip reduction program designed to reduce commute related automobile travel.

Hasan also worked abroad for the former Soviet Union government, Moscow Metro Corporation, where he conducted subway ridership forecasting, engineering design and analysis of TDM programs for Moscow's subway system. He holds a masters degree in industrial engineering and a PhD Cadency in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California. Hasan is a longtime resident of San Bernardino County.

National outreach on this position resulted in a diverse pool of candidates from across the country with qualifications of the top 12 individuals reviewed by the Executive Search Committee during November. A total of six candidates were invited to interview with the Executive Search Committee in early December, and the SCAG Regional Council acted today to ratify the selection of the search committee.

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 187 cities and more than seventeen million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable, sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, go to the SCAG Web site at [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).

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